

THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

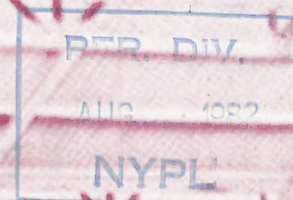
The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan Jamahiriya is based. The proposals put forward by Muammer al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.

Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

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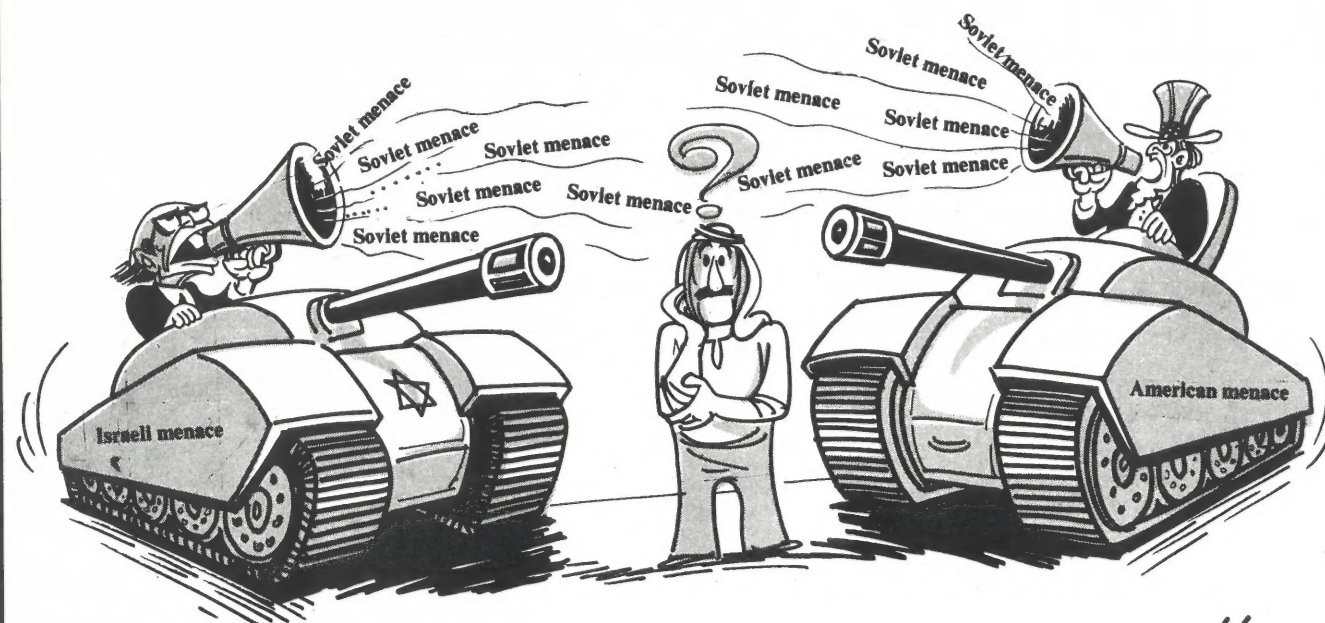
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Hamid

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Issue No 13

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DESPITE ATTEMPTS by the Libyan Jamahiriya to forge closer ties with the American people, the Reagan administration has ordered the expulsion of the entire staff of the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington. A report on page 9 sees the move as part of a continuing campaign to discredit Libya in western eyes, as a prelude to American plans for military intervention in the Jamahiriya.

IN RECENT weeks Moscow has hosted several visits from Arab leaders, underlining their recognition of the need to balance the United States penetration of the region with stronger ties with the Soviet Union. However, in Moscow, Muammer Qadhafi spoke out on the need to end foreign intervention in Afghanistan, and urged the re-unification of Germany. Report on page 8.

AS PART of the Libyan Jamahiriya's development programme, a number of new industrial cities are now emerging, designed to diversify the country's economy and set the foundations for the Jamahiriya's stability in the future. In the first of a series of articles examining these new cities, Dr Alan George reviews plans for Misrata. See page 16.

THE ECONOMIC development problems faced by the Arab nation and by the Third World as a whole have come under close scrutiny with the convening of the 'Energy 2000' conference in Tunis. The challenges of development have also been the focus of a new UN report on the population of the Arab homeland. Reports on page 14.

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The sad case of Anwar Sadat

'I PERSONALLY would not be afraid to join the Atlantic Alliance. We face a common danger' — the words of President Sadat in a recent interview with one of the government mouthpieces which Egyptians are forced to read in the absence of a free press in their country.

It's worthwhile, perhaps, to take a few moments to reflect on the language used by the Egyptian ruler. He personally, to use his expression, would not be a candidate for NATO membership. NATO members are states, not individuals. No doubt Sadat was intending to convey that he would quite like the idea that Egypt might become a full member of the western alliance, rather than a third-class hanger-on as Sadat has arranged at the moment. In which case, it's worth reflecting that Sadat has evidently come to the point where he has lost so much touch with reality that he is close to thinking that he *is* Egypt; that the expressions of opposition to his Zionist, imperialist policies either don't exist, or are the responsibility of non-Egyptians.

Muammar Qadhafi's *Green Book* advocates the end of all systems whereby one man or a group rule over their fellow human beings. The sad case of Anwar Sadat demonstrates the logical result of such political systems. Having started out, like so many government leaders, by insisting that he rules on behalf of his fellow citizens, Anwar Sadat has reached a point where they have ceased to exist as independent individuals and have become merely extensions of the ruler.

Yet beneath this delusion, that he has somehow ceased to be a man and has actually become a country, lurks a suspicion which undermines his confidence. 'We face a common danger,' Sadat said. What danger confronts NATO and Sadat? NATO was created in 1949, in the wake of the US decision that it would not return to isolation in the wake of World War II, but would continue to play a world-wide interventionist role in defence of its economic interests. The re-building of the shattered economies of Europe along capitalist lines to provide a market for US industries was the order of the day.

This in turn meant a confrontation with the Soviet Union, which wanted to keep control over the buffer states of eastern and central Europe to provide a bulwark against the possibility of a repeated German attack. In order to protect its economic hold on Europe, the US created NATO as a military 'alliance'. Although it is often presented as somehow a defensive alliance, it should be noted that the USSR did not draw its own allies into the Warsaw Pact until some seven years later, in 1956.

NATO has never been a real alliance. The tremendous military might and economic strength of the United States has meant that it alone has the real power. The secretive activities of NATO's central organisation, notably the clandestine 'Nuclear Planning Group' cannot be discussed by the people of

western countries, because they are never given the information. In the end, NATO is a mechanism by which US policies can be imposed on the people of western Europe, as the recent decisions on increasing military spending and the siting of Cruise missiles in Europe clearly demonstrate.

As might be expected, continued assent to NATO policies in the west has been made possible by continual secret interference in the domestic politics of most of the countries of the Alliance. The Americans secretly funded right-wing trade unions and political parties in France and Italy; handed out cash to approved politicians like West Germany's Brandt; and backed it all with a massive campaign among intellectuals and academics to make their policies appear respectable.

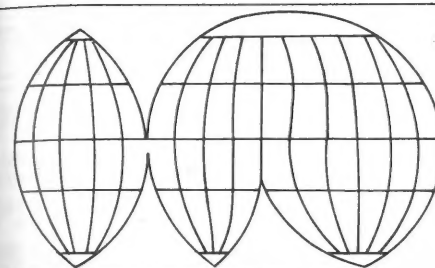
NATO itself manipulates public and academic opinion with 'research programmes', 'news services' and 'support groups' in its member countries, financed from NATO headquarters and intended to give the impression that there is some genuine public support for its policies, which there is not.

Under these circumstances, Sadat's comment that he and NATO 'face a common danger' has more truth than he probably intended. NATO has always felt that the main danger to its policies came from the people of western Europe, and from progressive organisations which opposed its warlike intentions. It has even gone so far as to condone military coups in Greece and Turkey when those countries appeared to be moving out of the NATO orbit. And like NATO, the ever-present danger to Sadat also comes from the ordinary people, of Egypt and of the Arab nation as a whole.

His desire to join the Alliance, or at least to have a closer association with it, will probably be granted. The United States is keen to have an enhanced military presence in the Arab homeland; NATO members agreed at the beginning of May that they would co-ordinate their activities outside the North Atlantic area — though to save the embarrassment of those governments whose populations oppose this, they will not actually call themselves 'NATO' while they do so.

In the immediate future, the threat to the Arab homeland posed by Sadat and other western surrogates is high. But in a longer view, Sadat has hitched his wagon to a train which is grinding slowly but surely to a standstill. In western Europe, the opposition to the stationing of Cruise and Pershing missiles is growing; there is a gut reaction against the realisation, slowly dawning on the people of Europe, that the superpowers are quite happy to fight a nuclear war.

There is common cause to be made by the Arab nation and the people of western Europe; common cause for the principles which the Libyan Jamahiriya has always upheld; the right of nations and people to determine their own futures, free from the tyranny of the super powers and of self-appointed rulers who claim to speak on behalf of the people when they have no right to do so.



The concealed faces of Israeli-backed militiamen in the Lebanon.

Libya backs Syria against Zionist aggression

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has pledged its full support for Syria in the current conflict with the Zionist state and has backed up the pledge by sending a battery of anti-aircraft missiles to stand in for Syrian batteries transferred from Damascus to Lebanon to counter expected Israeli air strikes against Syrian positions there.

The Jamahiriya's action came in response to a series of brutal air attacks against Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and the shooting down by American-made Zionist planes of two Syrian helicopters that were supplying Syrian ground forces fighting Israeli-backed rightist Phalangist militiamen.

The Phalangists had been seeking to strengthen their military position in the Lebanese town of Zahle at the expense of Syrian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. Syria then moved batteries of SAM 6 anti-aircraft missiles into Lebanon, a move that was at once seized upon by Zionist premier Beigin as a 'threat to Israel's security'. Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam said on 5th May that the Israeli claim was ridiculous, adding: 'Israel wants security for its planes

to bomb and strafe Lebanese civilians and Palestinians.'

On 3rd May Dr Abdel Salam Treiki, Foreign Affairs Liaison Secretary, met with Syrian President Hafez al Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Damascus, to further underline the Jamahiriya's firm commitment to ending the repeated Zionist attacks on Lebanon.

Within a week it was reported that the Jamahiriya had backed up its affirmations of support for Syria by stationing a battery of anti-aircraft missiles, manned by Libyan personnel, on Syrian territory bordering Lebanon. These filled the gap in Damascus city's air defence system caused by the Syrian transfer of its own anti-aircraft missiles to Lebanon.

The Libyan move was in accordance with a message Brother Qadhafi had sent to Arab leaders on 24th April, at the height of the Zionist bombing raids on Lebanon, in which he urged them to take firm military action to repel the assaults. Pointing out that the attacks constituted an external aggression against an independent Arab League member state, Col Qadhafi noted that, in accordance with the Arab League Charter, the other Arab states 'should take part militarily and directly in repelling this aggression'.

He continued: 'Naval, air and land forces must be sent openly

and in a regular manner from the League's member states; fighting must start immediately against the invading Israeli forces.'

Suspicious meetings at the State Department

MOROCCAN FOREIGN Minister Mohamed Bouchetta held what was described in Washington as 'an unscheduled meeting' with the US Secretary of State Alexander Haig on 11th May for what observers speculate were discussions to co-ordinate a drive against the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer refused to comment on the meeting, saying only that it had been arranged at the request of the Moroccans in order for Bouchetta to deliver a message from King Hassan to President Reagan.

However, the meeting is being seen in the context of an international campaign being waged by the Hassan regime in which senior officials have been sent to western capitals to make claims of Libyan threats to Africa and the Mediterranean. King Hassan is said to have urged concerted action to oust Qadhafi and overthrow the Al Fatah Revolution.

This campaign, observers in Washington point out, coincided neatly with the US declaration to expel all personnel from the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington.

In Tripoli on 7th May, Arab ambassadors were briefed by the Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison on the Jamahiriya's stance towards Morocco. King Hassan appears frightened by the earlier proposal from Muammar Qadhafi for a union between Mauritania and Libya, which the Foreign Liaison Secretary described as conforming with the Jamahiriya's commitment to Arab unity. He accused the Rabat regime of collusion with the United States and the Zionists in a campaign against the Arab nation.

Rome talks for Jalloud

HIGH-LEVEL talks on relations between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Italy have been taking place in Rome, attended by Staff Major Abdel Salam Jalloud, one of the Free Unionist Officers involved in staging the 1969 Al Fatah Revolution in Libya.

Italy has long associations with Libya, which have involved subjecting the Libyan people to one of the harshest colonial tyrannies. At the time of the Al Fatah Revolu-

lution, Italian colonialists controlled much of Libyan agriculture and commerce. After the initial moves by the revolutionary government in Libya to evacuate the Italian settler community, relations between Italy and the Jamahiriya normalised, with healthy trade relations between the two countries. Libyan investment in the giant Fiat corporation a few years ago acted to cement the relationship.

During his visit to Rome, Abdel Salam Jalloud held talks with Italian leaders including Premier Arnaldo Forlani and Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo.

A communiqué issued after the talks said that the two sides had a cordial discussion of bilateral affairs. Major Jalloud underlined Libya's policy of positive neutrality and opposition to rival super power operations in and around the Mediterranean. As a member of NATO, Italy provides the United States with military and naval bases on her territory, including bases for the US Sixth Fleet, which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has often accused of 'terrorising' his country.

Libya feels that the Italians owe them substantial sums in reparation for the Italian fascists' colonial occupation of their country, and for the damage done during the Second World War, and these issues were discussed during Major Jalloud's visit. The talks also touched on the problems of Italians jailed for criminal acts in Libya, and Libyans in Italian jails. The Italian government has said that it is willing to co-operate with the Jamahiriya on technical aid in petrochemicals and civil engineering.

At the end of the talks, it was announced that a joint commission to study economic matters had been formed by the two countries.

Merger talks cover information topics

AS PART of the continuing process towards unity between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Syria, talks were held in Damascus in April to discuss information co-operation. The Libyan side was headed by Ibrahim Bishari, Secretary of the administrative committee for revolutionary information, the Syrian side by Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, Information Minister.

Damascus radio said after the meeting that discussions had dealt with the improvement of contacts between the two fraternal countries and the creation of new opportunities for co-operation in



François Mitterrand: a cautious welcome from Arab leaders.

foreign information, distribution and publication and joint production programmes. The meeting called for practical steps to be taken based on available potentials, which also served the trend towards the unity of the two countries.

Mixed feelings over Mitterrand victory

THERE HAVE been mixed reactions in the Arab homeland regarding the victory of the French socialist leader François Mitterrand in the French presidential elections. The view amongst progressive Arab forces is one of cautious welcome, as commentators point out that Mitterrand is likely to adopt a new international foreign policy which is less colonialist than the tone set by the Giscard administration. On the other hand, Mitterrand's close links with the Zionists have forced the Arabs to curtail their optimism over the election results.

The Jamahiriya News Agency in Tripoli, commenting on Mitterrand's victory, said that 'the fall of Giscard means an end to Giscard's policy of colonial domination in Africa and the Arab world which led to France's reputation being tainted.'

Mitterrand defeated former President Giscard in the second round of the French Presidential elections on May 10th. Giscard had been one of the leading proponents of western interference in Africa both by direct military attacks and through

supporting puppet rulers. The French supported the regime of Felix Malloum in Chad, which was overthrown last year by guerrillas of Frolinat, the Chad National Liberation Front. They have also been among the leading backers of King Hassan of Morocco in his attempt to maintain his control of the Western Sahara against the efforts of its people led by Polisario guerrillas.

On the other hand, Mitterrand has in the past expressed sympathy with the Zionists. During a televised confrontation with Giscard in the course of the election campaign, Mitterrand said that he supported the Camp David agreement, and that he felt that France should act to protect its interests in the Gulf region. One Beirut newspaper commented that these positions 'betrayed a lack of understanding' of the issues underlying the Middle East conflict. An official PLO spokesman expressed the hope that Mitterrand would follow a different line on the Palestine question as President from that which he followed as a candidate.

US breaks hostages agreement

THE UNITED States has failed to honour agreements reached with the Islamic Republic of Iran which led to the release of the 52 American diplomats in January this year. Ahmed Aziz, the Under-Secretary in the Prime Minister's office who is in charge of the implementation of the agreement reached in Algiers, said that four

issues were in contention between Iran and the US:

- Iran could not accept cash refunds instead of the military equipment for which it had paid the Americans;
- the US had failed to show the necessary speed and goodwill in working for an end to the freezing of Iranian assets in the US;
- the US should prevent the commencement or re-activation of legal actions by Americans and American businesses against Iran;
- the US had failed to give Iran the agreed information on the assets and property of the disgraced ex-Shah and his family, making this conditional on the results of the private legal actions brought against Iran.

Mr Aziz said that Iran was prepared to negotiate on any claims arising from the Algiers agreement, under which the US agreed to free \$18 billion of Iranian assets seized by the US government after Islamic revolutionaries took over the US Embassy in Tehran and held the 52 US diplomats because of their activity in supporting the deposed Shah. He said that the US government should give the Iranians details of all the private legal actions pending in the US, of which there are believed to be more than 2,000.

West to blame for inflation

'THE INDUSTRIALISED countries claim that their economy is threatened by rising oil prices. We believe that inflation is caused by goods imported from those very countries,' the Libyan Petroleum Secretary, Abd as Salam Az Zaq'ar, told a seminar on co-operation between the Organisation of Arab Oil Producing Countries, OAPEC, and the countries of southern Europe in Rome in April.

'Countries like West Germany and Japan, which import a lot of oil have a low inflation rate. As to some countries' declared intention to reduce consumption and develop alternative policies, we support this, in order to lessen the pressure on producers,' Mr Az Zaq'ar added.

The seminar was organised by OAPEC in collaboration with the Italian state-owned oil company, ENI, and the Italian government. Observers noted that the basic agreement of the Conference, that producers and consumers of oil have common interests which they can tackle together, runs counter to the energy policies of most developed countries, and of the EEC, to strive for 'energy independence' and so to minimise the pressure to compromise with the Third World.

Zionists attacked over Palestine's infrastructure

THE ARAB group attending the Fourth International Conference on Human Settlements, convened in Manila in April, introduced a draft resolution condemning the Zionist state for refusing to implement recommendations adopted by the third conference, held in Mexico last year. The recommendations called on Israel to improve the services and develop the basic infrastructure in Palestine and the other occupied Arab lands. The draft resolution also condemned all countries establishing settlements in other nations' lands by force.

The Arab group also decided to ask the conference to issue a resolution which would prohibit Israel from destroying old buildings, and require the Zionist government to maintain historical and cultural sites in occupied Jerusalem.

Arab media faces criticism

THE ROLE of the government controlled information media in various parts of the Arab homeland has come under criticism from the Libyan journal *Al Zahf al Akhdar*, the weekly newspaper of the revolutionary committees.

The paper pointed out in an April editorial that the Arabic media is being used as an offensive weapon to mislead public

opinion on important issues which threaten the Arab nation. The paper's comments underline the continuing distortion of international news by the western controlled news agencies, although *Al Zahf al Akhdar* expressed its concern also at the failure of the Arabic media to make any serious editorial protests over American and imperialist plans for the region.

The paper called for sweeping changes in the Jamahiriya's own media services. 'We want revolutionary information media which have the courage to convey the whole truth to the people,' declared the paper.

Apathy gives Reagan a clear run

WITH THE Reagan administration bent on escalating the United States military presence world-wide, a recent survey of American students shows that they know little about foreign affairs, and few are concerned by their ignorance. The dangers of such a situation are that Reagan's administration appears to have little informed opinion about world affairs capable of challenging the president's distorted view of international affairs.

The survey of 3,000 students on 185 campuses found that 65 per cent of seniors (final year students) did not know which countries belong to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Less than 30 per cent realised that OPEC has members outside the Arab homeland.

Overall, seniors answered only 50 per cent of the foreign affairs questions correctly, freshmen (first year students) 41 per cent and two-year college students 40 per cent. Less than one senior in 10 scored above 67 per cent and no one answered correctly more than 84 of the 101 questions on the complex multiple-choice test prepared by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The results were released on 15th April at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where educators and experts on foreign affairs expressed alarm and called on colleges to upgrade their teaching. 'The lack of knowledge of international affairs [appears] to be related to the general lack of interest in other nations and world issues among these students,' ETS said in its findings.

In questionnaires accompanying the test, more than one-third of the students indicated they were not interested in foreign relations. One senior in five and one freshman in four said they rarely read articles about international affairs.

Book Fair sees Arab publishers get together

A UNION of Arab Publishers was founded at the end of April by publishers participating in the First International Book Fair in Tripoli. The Union will contribute to the development of Arab literature, consolidate national and progressive tendencies and channel them to the service of the Arab cause.

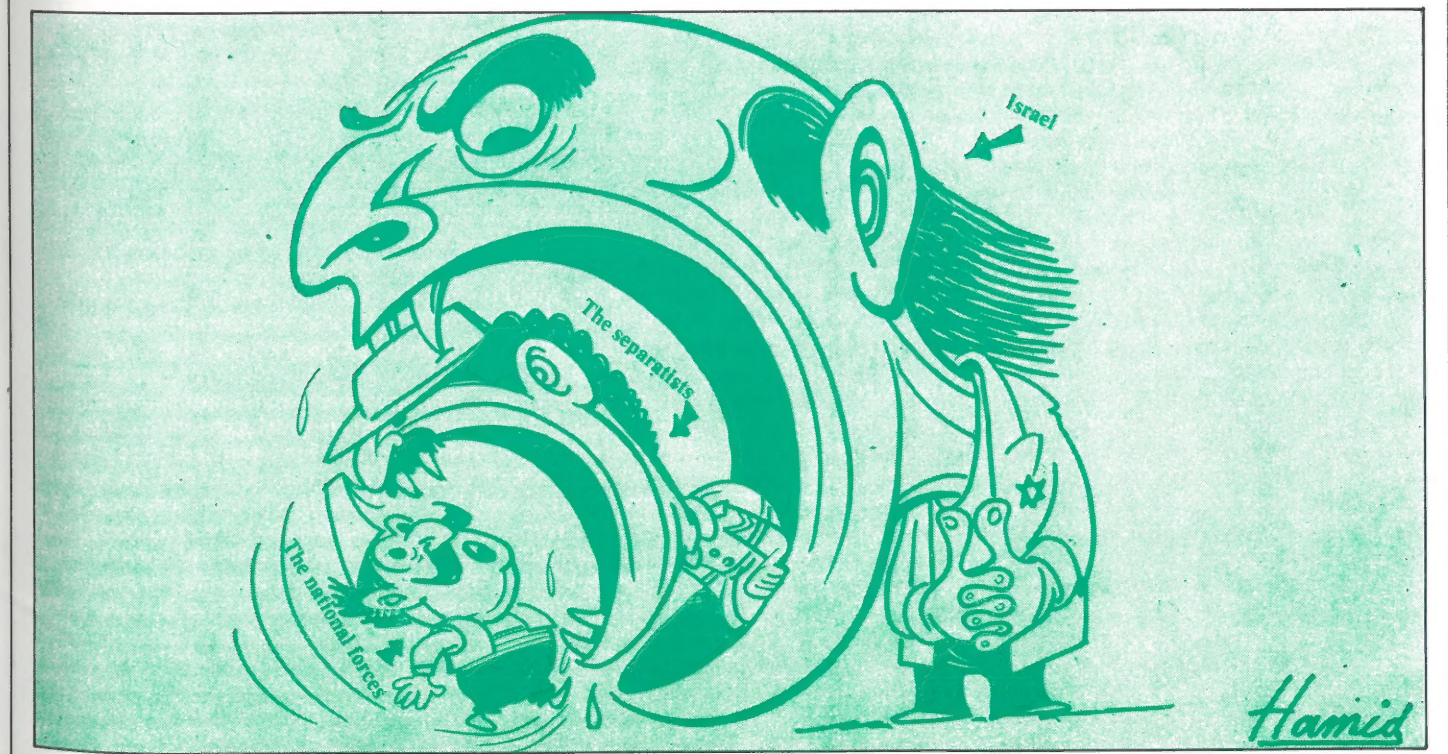
The slogan of the International Book Fair was 'Knowledge is the right of every individual.' Some quarter of a million books were bought at the fair, which was attended by 65 Arab and foreign publishers, who exhibited some 8,000 titles, of which 1,200 were contributed by the Jamahiriya.

Women take hold of long-range rockets

LIBYAN WOMEN students showed off their skills at handling long-range rockets during a passing out parade of graduates attended by Major Khweilidi Hamidi, the Commander of Urban Militarisation, on 28th April.

The women were students from the Hawary women teachers' training institute in Benghazi, and their presence at the ceremony underlined the Libyan determination not only to defend their country in the event of external threats, but to give women an equal role with men in that struggle.

Major Hamidi stressed that the delivery of the most modern and sophisticated weapons to a batch of new graduates signified the determination of the Revolution to ensure that the country's weapons are in the direct control of the people. He stressed that defending the country was equally the responsibility of Libyan women as well as men, and of civilians as well as military personnel. Exploding bombs, he pointed out, make no distinction between men and women, and none between civilians and soldiers.





President Brezhnev greets Muammar Qadhafi in Moscow.

Arabs turn to the Soviet Union

THE NEED to balance American penetration in the Arab homeland, and US backing for the Zionist regime in Palestine has been underlined in recent weeks by the visits to Moscow of Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, and Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Foreign Minister of Kuwait. That these two Arab personalities should represent the radical and conservative wings of political opinion within the Arab nation further emphasises that a Soviet role in Middle East affairs is not a view held solely by progressive forces. The forthcoming visits to the Soviet Union by Jordan's King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat adds further weight to this assessment.

Although the US sponsored Camp David accords which brought a peace treaty into effect between the Zionist and Sadat regimes effectively eclipsed the Soviet Union from an active role in efforts to resolve the Palestine question, the increasing threats to the Arab homeland posed by the Reagan administration have brought Moscow's less assertive and more respectful position back into focus.

Colonel Qadhafi arrived in Moscow in late April not only as the Libyan leader, but also on behalf of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which links the Jamahiriya, Syria, Democratic Yemen, Algeria and the PLO in a front dedicated to mobilising opposition to the Camp David process.

THE LIBYAN Leader Muammar Qadhafi held high-level talks in Moscow during late April, urging firm support from the Soviet Union for the Arab struggle against imperialism. Eclipsed for some time from international initiatives concerning the Middle East, there are now increasing signals from Arab capitals to Moscow that a more active role from the Soviets is required.

It was Qadhafi's first visit to the Soviet Union since 1976, although a top-level Libyan delegation led by Staff Major Abdel Salam Jalloud went to the Soviet capital in 1978.

Defending the Jamahiriya's relations with the Soviet Union, Muammar Qadhafi has constantly stressed that the relationship is based on mutual respect between the two countries, and that there is no interference in Libyan affairs from Moscow. Indeed, the Libyan leader's speech given at a banquet in his honour provided an opportunity for Qadhafi to point to some of the issues on which Moscow and Tripoli differ. The Libyan leader called for an end to foreign inter-

vention in Afghanistan, urged the reunification of East and West Germany, and voiced reservations concerning the Soviet proposal for a Geneva-style conference to discuss the Palestine issue.

However, on vital issues concerning the security and rights of the Arab nation, there was total identity of views between Soviet and Libyan leaders.

Muammar Qadhafi told the Soviet leaders: 'Peace is seriously threatened in the Middle East. The Arab nation, headed by the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, will lose its patience and self-restraint as there is nothing which stops the Israelis and their military aggressions, neither borders, nor Security Council and UN resolutions.'

He continued, 'A firm stand is required from the Soviet Union in supporting the Arab stand militarily and politically, and more efforts to be made towards your Arab friends in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in favour of the progressive and revolutionary forces in the Arab world.'

'We make such requests because a super-power not isolated from any serious international conflict, especially if this conflict involves several parties and other hostile super-powers.'

The Libyan leader added, 'We in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, fully support your proposal on world detente, but we also see that your proposal to hold an international conference on the Palestine question needs to be discussed and explained.'

'Afghanistan's independence and neutrality should be restored, and foreign intervention in her affairs should be brought to an end. Other details in the Gulf neutrality and its shift from the world's power struggle should also be discussed.'

Muammar Qadhafi said the Confrontation Front valued the 'fruitful relations' with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. 'We never felt, through our relations with the Socialist bloc that this friendship has been established at the expense of our social values, nor has it been at the expense of our political stands, national independence, social aspects and our spiritual beliefs.'

'If at any stage we felt that our relations with the Socialist bloc harmed these values, then we would not be here, in Moscow, to strengthen and develop these relations.'

Qadhafi emphasised: 'My visit to your friendly country comes in critical circumstances. Despite the good intentions of your government and your good efforts in peace initiatives for disarmament, limitation of strategic weapons, withdrawal of military fleets from the Mediterranean, and dismantling of all foreign bases there, in addition to your intensive efforts in the Helsinki conference for world detente and peace, nevertheless the colonialist side, with its capitalist and expansionist nature, hostile to freedom and peace, has tried to make the smaller countries of the world and the Third World in general victims of the detente issue.'

IN A calculated rebuff of recent moves by Libyan revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi aimed at improving relations between the Jamahiriya and the United States, President Reagan has ordered the expulsion of the entire People's Committee at the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington, together with their families. The expulsion order, made on the pretext of alleged Libyan involvement in Soviet-inspired 'international terrorism', was given to Mr Ali Ahmad Houderi, Secretary of the Washington People's Bureau, during a 6th May meeting with US Under-Secretary of State Walter Stroessel.

However, Reagan's move has to be considered against the background of his administration's declared position towards the Jamahiriya. With its strong petroleum based economy, Libya is a powerful opponent of US international strategy, and one of the principal voices against Washington's military plans in the Arab homeland. Additionally, the Jamahiriya's whole ideological approach to Third World political and economic liberation is directly counter to the resurgence of American imperialism heralded by the election of Reagan as US president.

It is now widely recognised that Reagan has contingency plans for the destabilisation of the Libyan Jamahiriya in a desperate bid to remove one of the main forces of opposition to American plans. A full military scheme has been prepared, and the latest developments concerning the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington can only be seen as a move designed to discredit Libya in the eyes of American public opinion, and prepare opinion for the invasion plan by minimising public outcry and opposition if the scheme is activated.

The expulsion order was used by the administration to make a series of allegations against the Jamahiriya which were clearly calculated to adversely influence public opinion.

Giving the Libyans five days to leave, Washington cited Libyan 'provocations and misconduct, including support for international terrorism' as the motive for their expulsion. A State Department announcement said that President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig had also been 'concerned by a general pattern of unacceptable conduct by the People's Bureau in Washington which is contrary to internationally accepted standards of diplomatic behaviour.' The State Department declined, however, to specify the activities it termed 'unacceptable conduct', prompting observers to question the veracity of the charge.

Diplomatic relations between the US and the Jamahiriya have not, however, been severed, despite the absence of a Libyan mission in Washington or of any US diplomatic staff in Tripoli. In December 1979 the US Embassy in the Libyan capital was burned down in an angry demonstration by Libyans protesting against US policies in the Arab



Ali El Houderi (centre) welcomes guests at a farewell reception in Washington, following Reagan's expulsion order.

Reagan moves over Libyan Bureau part of grand design

DESPITE ATTEMPTS by the Libyan Jamahiriya to forge closer ties with the American people, the Reagan administration has ordered the expulsion of the entire People's Committee of the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington. The move is seen as part of a continuing campaign to discredit Libya in western eyes, as a prelude to American plans for military intervention against the Jamahiriya.

homeland. The last US diplomats were withdrawn in May last year, and since then the US has been unofficially represented through third countries. The US reportedly expects the Jamahiriya to make similar arrangements in Washington.

The same day as the expulsion order, the State Department issued a warning to Americans not to travel to the Jamahiriya in the coming weeks, while on 7th May the approximately 2,000 US nationals working in Libya were urged to leave the country. Such warnings are a classic technique employed by the US when it wishes to raise international tension.

Speaking on US television on 7th May, Mr Houderi assured the American people that Americans working in Libya had

nothing whatsoever to fear, and would be unaffected by the expulsion of the Libyan People's Committee. And, underlining the secure and stable situation prevailing in Libya, the British Foreign Office has told *Jamahiriya Review* that the UK has not seen fit to issue any cautions to UK nationals along the lines of those coming out of Washington.

At the time of President Reagan's inauguration, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi issued a call for closer relations between the US and the Jamahiriya. In a letter to the new President, Col Qadhafi said: 'The Libyan Arab people look forward to sound and equitable relations, based on mutual respect and interests', adding: 'My country looks forward to establishing such relations with your new administration in the United States.'

However, with Reagan, Haig, Defence Secretary Weinberger, and the entire administration in Washington blinded by their simplistic and dangerous world view that pits a virtuous America on the defensive against a satanic and expansionist Soviet Union, Qadhafi's call for closer ties has been brushed aside. In the opinion of the White House, Third World countries that seek to maintain their independence from both super-powers are being dubbed as anti-American Soviet puppets. Liberation movements fighting oppressive US-backed regimes are presented as mere pawns in an alleged Soviet grand design to spread communism through a campaign of international terrorism. The Jamahiriya's firm commitment to a non-aligned foreign

policy, and its open support for genuine liberation movements such as the Palestinian resistance and the Polisario Front, have made the Libyan people a prime target of the Reagan administration.

Muammar Qadhafi's repeated condemnations of terrorism have gone as unheeded by Reagan as his call for closer relations with the American people. In March, for example, speaking on Rome radio, the Libyan leader firmly denounced the terrorism perpetrated by the West German Baader-Meinhof group, the Italian Red Brigades, the Basque separatist movement ETA and the IRA. And on Italian television on 6th April Brother Qadhafi urged the Red Brigades to give up their pistols and bombs and use legal methods to advance their cause. He added that he was 'against terrorism in Italy and against every type of terrorism in the whole world'.

It is a true irony that even the Central Intelligence Agency, whose job it is to analyse the forces at work in local conflicts, and which is hardly noted for its pro-Soviet sympathies, has been unable to produce evidence to substantiate the claims of the Reagan administration. On 30th March the *International Herald Tribune* reported: 'A draft report by the Central Intelligence Agency has concluded that there is not enough evidence to support administration charges that the Soviet Union is directly helping to foment international terrorism.' This runs directly counter to Reagan's assertions, and so embarrassing was the report that it has been sent back to the CIA for revision. According to the *Herald Tribune*, administration and congressional officials have voiced concern that 'the agency was again being asked to tailor its views to fit administration policy'. An official was quoted as saying: 'There would not have been a review if the estimate's conclusions had totally supported the administration's charges.'

Libyan response

The expulsion of the Libyan personnel from Washington, and the Reagan administration's charges of Libyan involvement in terrorism, were strongly denounced in a statement issued by the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau in Tripoli. The US action had come as no surprise, said the statement, since the American administration 'is accustomed to be hostile to any voice raised against its imperialist policy and which stands up to its avaricious ambitions in the Arab region and elsewhere in the world'.

Describing the stated US motive for closing the People's Bureau in Washington as 'a flimsy pretext which has no basis in truth', the Foreign Liaison Bureau accused the US of ignoring 'the rising awareness of Third World peoples to decide their future by themselves, free of US patronage and hegemony'. The Jamahiriya wanted good relations with all the peoples of the world, including the

'Kadhafi must go' bid by Reagan

PLANS to topple Libya's leader, Colonel Kadhafi—widely regarded as the Middle East's Number One troublemaker—have been approved by President Reagan, according to a newspaper report.

Yesterday's New York Daily News says that the President has vetoed the suggestion of some aides that Kadhafi should be assassinated.

Instead he is said to be prepared to back Egypt and

other moderate Arab States in moves which would end Kadhafi's reign of terror.

Direct assistance by the United States would be provided if the Arab attempt to oust Kadhafi appeared to be failing, according to an official quoted by Lars-Erik Nelson, Washington correspondent of the Daily News.

The press reveals Reagan's plot against Libya.

American people, in order to realise the aspirations of these peoples to establish peace and security in the world on the basis of freedom and justice, the statement continued.

'The position of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya towards international terrorism is clear, as it was stressed more than once and on many occasions,' said the statement. 'It condemns international terrorism which harms the lives of innocent people, and it is a party to all international agreements concerning the protection and safety of civil aviation.'

The Foreign Liaison Bureau made some sharp references to the United States' own record on international conflicts, saying: 'Before labelling others with international terrorism, the American administration must remember the acts of international terrorism it committed in Vietnam and El Salvador as it bombarded with its planes thousands of innocents, and destroyed homes, bridges and the basic structures of these countries. It also turned a blind eye to the policy of spreading starvation and blackmail practiced against the people of Nicaragua and other struggling peoples by imposing an embargo on its grain sales to these peoples.' The statement continued: 'It must also remember that the production of nuclear weapons, the setting up of military bases and the presence of American fleets in the Mediterranean Sea are forms of international terrorism.'

The Foreign Liaison Bureau went on to point out that there was a difference between the acts of international terrorism practised by the United States and Libya's backing for the peoples suffering under the tyranny of imperialism and foreign domination. 'The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya does not hide its support and backing for these peoples and does not see in that an act of international terrorism as is claimed by the American administration, but it sees it instead as a humanitarian duty towards these peoples,' the statement said.

It continued: 'The question of international terrorism interests the whole

world, and should not only be defined by the United States alone. The United States is not a guardian of the world, enabling it to pass arbitrary judgements appraising the behaviour and conduct of other countries.'

The statement dismissed US assertions that Libya was 'exporting revolution', describing the claim as shallow, since thoughts and principles were not limited by political frontiers. 'If there were people who adopted the thoughts and principles of the Al Fateh Revolution, it is their business alone, and we think that they do not violate an international law or code which concerns the United States of America,' said the statement.

Pointing to the real motive behind the expulsions, the statement said: 'The real reason for the deportation of the members of the People's Bureau does not lie in the flimsy pretext given by the American administration, but lies in the inability of the American administration to understand and comprehend the growing awareness of the region's peoples and their desire to control their own destinies, and rid themselves from all forms of guardianship imposed upon them.'

The statement concluded with a warning of the possible consequences of the US move. 'If the American administration continues to pursue its hostile foreign policy against the Jamahiriya's people, their revolutions and options,' said the Foreign Liaison Bureau, 'then the Libyan Arab people will, through its Basic People's Congresses, take the necessary measures which will enable it to confront this aggressive policy.'

The Libyan Jamahiriya is in a strong position to retaliate against the United States. Libya is America's third largest supplier of oil, amounting to about 11 per cent of total imports into the US. The Jamahiriya's high grade oil is not easily replaced on the world market.

Additionally, the US last year exported to Libya goods valued at \$508.8 million. Should the basic people's congresses in Libya call for an oil and trade embargo to be imposed against the United States, the consequences for the American economy would be considerable.

THE GROWING opposition of the Somali people to President Siad Barre was underlined by the recent purge by the Somali ruler of his junta and by the launch of the opposition Somali National Movement (SNM), dedicated to the overthrow of his regime. Resentment at Barre has been heightened over the past year by his increasingly oppressive rule and by his offer of military bases to Washington. The SNM is the second major group formed to oust Barre. In February 1979 the Somali Salvation Front (SOSAF) was launched, and has since been conducting a successful armed struggle against the Mogadishu regime.

The extent of the 27th April purge took many observers by surprise. Ten out of 17 members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC), including the national security chief (who is Barre's son-in-law), and the Defence Minister were dismissed. The SRC is made up of the men who led the 1969 coup that brought Barre to power. It was disbanded in 1976, although its members continued to hold powerful government seats. Then, last October, a state of emergency was declared and the council was re-constituted. The President now rules the country by decree.

The Somali National Movement (SNM) was launched in London on 6th April, with former Planning Minister Ahmad Ismail Abdi on its executive committee. The SNM is committed 'to oppose and fight the present absolute dictatorship of Siad Barre', and advocates a return to parliamentary government. Like SOSAF, it is deeply opposed to US bases in Somalia and prefers non-alignment in international affairs. Another similarity with SOSAF is the SNM's desire for the creation of a society based on Islamic precepts.

In March, SOSAF Secretary General Abdullahi Yusef Ahmad was in Lebanon at the head of a delegation from the Front's Foreign Relations Department for talks with officials of the Palestinian resistance, and in a 28th March interview with the Beirut daily *As Safir* he revealed the spectacular success of the Front's armed struggle. It now controls large areas of the country, he said, including the main road linking Mogadishu to the Gulf of Aden port of Berbera, where the United States maintains a military base. Since its formation as a broad grouping of forces opposed to the Siad Barre regime, SOSAF has carried out numerous operations against Somali military installations, and now has control of a wide swathe of territory in the middle of the country, said Abdullahi, a former Colonel in the Somali army. The only way government forces can move between Mogadishu, in the south, and Berbera in the north, is by air, he said.

Abdullahi, who was imprisoned by the authorities during the military coup which brought Siad Barre to power, but released in 1976, led an abortive rebellion against the regime in 1978. The main reason for the uprising was disaffection with Barre's policy in the Ogaden region of

Siad Barre faces growing opposition



Somalia's Siad Barre

THE REGIME of Siad Barre in Somalia is now facing a widespread opposition movement, as anger mounts over the President's policies which have inflicted poverty and deprivation on the people, invested scant resources in a war against Ethiopia, and brought the country to the point of bankruptcy.

Ethiopia. Somali forces invaded the Ogaden in 1977 but Ethiopia, with assistance from the Soviet Union and Cuba, launched a successful counter-offensive in 1978. Somalia lays claim to the Ogaden, a 300,000 square kilometre region comprising three Ethiopian provinces, parts of which are inhabited by ethnic Somalis.

Abdullahi's complaint in 1978 was that Siad Barre had kept troops from his own southern Marehan people out of the fighting in the Ogaden war. He accuses Siad Barre of running an oppressive

military junta dominated by a Marehani clique. Much of SOSAF's support comes from the Mijertein people who come from north east Somalia.

Last October's state of emergency was declared by Barre to counter what he termed 'terrorist groups backed by Ethiopia'. Abdullahi denies that SOSAF receives military support from Ethiopia, maintaining that such accusations were designed to give the impression that Somalia's problems were externally fomented. He said that SOSAF's arms were taken from the army, either by force or by way of the many army deserters which he said had joined the opposition's ranks.

On the Ogaden conflict, Abdullahi said that he saw no reason why, with a progressive regime installed in Somalia following the overthrow of Siad Barre, this question should not be resolved through negotiations with the revolutionary government in Ethiopia. He added that the refugee crisis in Somalia was partly manufactured by Siad Barre himself. The president had inflated the number of refugees (reckoned at almost one million by the UN), said Abdullahi, and in fact many of the refugees were not from the Ogaden at all. Many had been rounded up by the army in order to prevent them from joining SOSAF, he said. Food and supplies donated by the international agencies for the refugees were either being sold in local markets at high prices or else handed over to the army, according to Abdullahi.

US bases

Asked about American military involvement in Somalia, Abdullahi said that Berbera was not the only American base in the country. He said that there were other important bases, notably at Kismayu, a port lying between Mogadishu and the Kenyan border, and in the eastern region of Beled Dugali, where a major air base is being built. He added that so far no American forces had been stationed permanently at Berbera. Abdullahi noted that Egyptian and Pakistani officers were training Somali forces to boost their fighting capabilities. Egypt and Somalia last year signed a series of defence agreements.

The crisis facing the Barre regime was neatly summed up by a senior Somali civil servant, who was quoted in the London *Guardian* on 24th April as saying: 'President Siad Barre has utterly lost the confidence of the people of Somalia — and not only the people of Somalia, but also the leaders of almost all our traditional friends of the Arab world. Because of his policies, we have become the outlaw of Africa. Because of his policies, our economy has collapsed and we must beg aid from the international community in order to survive. He presents himself as a nationalist and a patriot struggling in the national interest. In fact all that he is doing is manipulating every force at his command to keep himself in power.'

International forum backs Libyan right to compensation

PARTICIPANTS AT a recent conference in Geneva agreed unanimously that the Libyan Jamahiriya has a strong moral bias for its claim for compensation from Britain, West Germany and Italy for the deaths and injuries sustained by the Libyan people as the result of accidental detonations of mines and other explosive devices left on Libyan territory by the combatants in the Second World War. A large group of the conference delegates also agreed that Libya had a strong case in international law.

The four-day conference ending on 1st May was convened to discuss the legal and moral responsibility of the Allied and Axis powers in tackling the problems and damages caused to third parties by war materials left on their territories. The symposium was jointly organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Research Institute of the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, and was attended by some 72 academics and other experts from a wide range of countries.

Many countries, including third party non-combatants and former colonial territories, whose national soil provided the various theatres of the Second World War have suffered since the war from the effects of war materials left on their territory, and continue to do so. But one of the conclusions that emerged at the conference was that Libya had suffered the most; the symposium devoted much of its deliberations to the Libyan experience.

The conference was chaired by Dr Victor Umbricht, Member of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR. There were no resolutions or recommendations, but the observations of the Chairman at the concluding session, and a number of the papers presented to the conference, are to be forwarded through UNITAR to the UN Secretary-General, who has been called upon by the General Assembly to prepare a report for the next assembly later this year.

At a press conference, Dr Umbricht said the discussions were lively but objective, and except on the issue of the legal responsibility of the combatants on both sides for the damage caused to Libya, there was little controversy on the issues considered. These non-controversial questions included the historical, economic, humanitarian and ecological aspects of the conference topic, and the technical problems posed in the removal of abandoned war materials, including mines, bombs, booby-traps and other unexploded dangerous or potential dangerous objects and substances buried in the ground. On all these issues there was a consensus, said Dr Umbricht.

While much of the focus was on the Jamahiriya's experience, that of other

WITH NORTH Africa a major theatre of the Second World War, the Libyan Jamahiriya has faced a continuing problem of injuries and damage resulting from mines and bombs left behind by the British and US armies on Libyan territory. Chakravathi Raghavan reports on a recent UN seminar which has given support to Libyan demands for compensation and assistance in tackling the problem.

countries figured as well. The problems faced by Poland, Australia, Malta and Vietnam, for example, came under discussion. Delegates learned that in Poland more than 84 million pieces of war material had been found since the end of the Second World War, and even now some 300-400,000 mines and arms are being cleared and destroyed there each year.

While almost every country that has been a theatre of war has suffered from the presence of war materials left over from the fighting, Libya has suffered more than any other, the forum heard. Four main types of war materials were still causing major problems in the Jamahiriya, the delegates learned: mines and booby traps; unexploded shells; unexploded

bombs that remain buried in the ground; and remnants of military vehicles and aircraft. The great majority of the mines were of the anti-tank kind, but there were also anti-personnel mines. No reliable estimates of the total number of mines exist. During the fighting on Libyan territory, in their advances and retreats, the Axis and Allied powers laid such weapons, removed and re-used them — their own as well as their enemy's. Millions of mines remain undetected. In the immediate post-war era and in the period since Libya attained nominal independence in 1951, the country tried to tackle the problem but was hampered by its fragile economy, a lack of plans and maps of the minefields and a shortage of bomb-disposal experts.

Twenty per cent of the Jamahiriya's cultivated land is reckoned to be mined, and an astonishing 86 per cent of the land under cultivation is suspected of being mined. The total area of minefields in the Jamahiriya is put at three times the area of arable land. Libya estimates that 10,000 square kilometres of agricultural land — 27 per cent of the country's total — is unusable because of the mines. It is estimated that the agricultural sector has suffered losses totalling \$350 million since the end of the war as a result of the minefields. Since 1960, 1,956 Libyans have died after accidentally setting off mines and another 1,777 have been maimed. Since 1971 four to five persons have died each year in mine explosions, with a maximum of ten in 1975.

According to Dr Umbricht, two main viewpoints emerged at the conference discussions on the legal aspects of the issue. The first line of thought was that there was a responsibility of the belligerent states to compensate third parties, arising from the international norms of the Hague Convention of 1907, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1948 and the Second Protocol to the 1980 Convention on Limitations on the Use of Conventional Weapons. According to this view, the states that had mined the territories of third parties and subsequently failed, deliberately or otherwise, to remove mines, were guilty and in contravention of international law, and must pay damages. They also had a duty to provide the plans, maps and other details of the minefields, and to provide technical and other help in defusing or removing them. The other delegates disputed the existence of any international norm or state responsibility arising from it, but they did not challenge the moral responsibility of the states concerned and considerations of international solidarity that required them to give assistance, and co-operate bilaterally or multilaterally in seeking effective solutions to the problem.



Europe's war continues to take its toll on Libyan citizens.

The role and purpose of education comes under review

THE EDUCATIONAL process is traditionally geared to train a country's young citizens to accept the status quo, and to fulfill their role within that society. In the Libyan Jamahiriya, where society has already undergone far-reaching and radical changes, Muammer Qadhafi is now urging major changes in the educational system.

EDUCATION IN the Libyan Jamahiriya is to undergo a series of major changes in the near future, in order to enable the system to serve the new society, and to provide students with a curriculum which takes into account the new roles which are open to every citizen within the participatory democracy of the Jamahiriya.

The changes have been heralded by the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi, who set out the pressing reasons for the changes and the direction they will take, when he addressed a degree ceremony for students graduating from Tripoli's Al Fateh University in March.

Firstly there is the urgent need for education to meet the needs of a society which is fast moving towards industrialisation and the technological age. In this respect, education has to provide the country with skilled technicians, and give students an ability to meet the challenges of new technology.

Moreover, a second change is needed. Education is traditionally paternalistic. Pupils are virtually 'processed' to meet the demands of society, and this tends to mean the requirements of the capitalist system. Traditional systems are perpetuated through the educational system, which teaches the younger generation to accept, and comply with, the status quo.

In Libya, however, the Al Fateh Revolution which swept aside the monarchy



in 1969 has heralded a total transformation in the political system, culminating in the creation of the Jamahiriya, a society based on direct democracy for all the people.

If there are to be no exceptions to this rule of direct democracy, then democracy has to be applied within the educational system. At the same time, the educational system has to change so as to ensure that students emerge from the schools and universities equipped to play a full and meaningful role within democracy as it is applied to industry, local affairs and the central legislature.

These are some of the factors which led to Muammer Qadhafi telling the Al Fateh University students in March that a cultural revolution was approaching which would sweep away the traditional educational systems. Referring to the tasks ahead, and the revolutionary changes which have to be consolidated, Qadhafi declared, 'If we are going to win this battle, you must make use of all the weapons which you have acquired.'

The Libyan Jamahiriya — 'the state of the masses' — has been achieved through continuous escalation of the revolutionary struggle, and continual transformation in political, economic and social affairs, the Libyan leader declared. 'By abolishing the present educational system and its traditional framework, a new system will emerge with a new framework in harmony with the society of the masses,' Qadhafi said.

Education plays a key role in the transformation of the Jamahiriya. The Libyan revolution has always placed great emphasis on expanding educational facilities. In 1969, when the Idrisi regime was overthrown, there were no postgraduate students in Libya. Today, there are two universities — Al Fateh in Tripoli and Garyounis in Benghazi — supported by a range of technical and vocational institutes.

The philosophy of education set out in the *Green Book* of Libyan revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi is being given concrete form in the Jamahiriya. 'Compulsory education, of which countries all over the world boast when they are able

to force it on their youth, is one of the methods which suppresses freedom. It is a compulsory obliteration of a human being's talent as well as a forcible direction of a human being's choices... This does not mean that schools are to be closed and that people should turn their backs on education. On the contrary, it means that society should provide all types of education giving people the chance to choose freely any subjects which they wish to learn,' Brother Qadhafi wrote in the *Green Book*.

Addressing the new graduates, he said that they were responsible for launching a battle whose weapons would be knowledge and science, rather than rifles and cannon wielded by soldiers in uniform. But, said the Libyan leader, this battle would be no less important than the other fundamental battles in building the new society.

Existing institutions would disappear, he said, to be replaced by 'new forms which would greatly contribute to the aims of the new society'. The existing curriculum would be displaced by a revolutionary, technological one.

Muammer Qadhafi has always placed great emphasis on the necessity to change what is taught in universities, so as to bring the curriculum into line with the transformation of Libyan society which has followed the Al Fateh revolution. He has spent hours and sometimes even days in seminars and discussions with university teachers and students, arguing for example that university education must not train people to adopt elitist social attitudes, that doctors in the new revolutionary society for example, must not expect that the skills they acquire will give them a higher income or a greater social status than their fellow citizens. He has also insisted, in his talks with those concerned in higher education, that western inspired ideas, as found in sociology and philosophy, are not relevant for a revolutionary Islamic society. Philosophy, for example, is no longer taught as a catalogue of the thoughts of various western leaders, long dead, but as 'explanation' — a way of assisting ordinary people to understand the world around them and so to participate in an informed way in Libya's unique direct democracy.

This approach to education is now accepted by most teachers and students. Now, Brother Qadhafi is proposing that the struggle be carried outside the universities, not only throughout the Jamahiriya, but through the Arab homeland as a whole.

This would mean that all problems facing mankind could be overcome, he said, because science had no purpose of existence save to serve the interests of mankind. All efforts should be directed towards the drafting of detailed plans for the new, progressive society which the new educational system would help bring about, he added. 'The result of this revolution in the educational field is the victory of the cause of freedom.'

Third World rises to the challenge of development

THE ECONOMIC development problems faced by the Arab nation and by the Third World as a whole have come under close scrutiny with the convening of the 'Energy 2000' conference in Tunis. The challenges of development have also been the focus of a new UN report on the population of the Arab homeland and of an important Arab League draft agreement aimed at boosting pan-Arab trade.

Tunis conference urges action on world energy

THE 'ENERGY 2000' conference on alternative energy sources closed on 30th March in Tunis with recommendations to both the industrialised and developing countries on promotion of new and renewable energy sources. The week-long conference was organised by a number of non-governmental organisations in conjunction with the Tunisian authorities. Participants from 32 countries of Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and Africa discussed the world energy situation and its future with officials and representatives of UN specialised agencies.

The conference stressed that the energy crisis was a 'worldwide problem' which could not be dealt with exclusively by politicians and scientists. They praised energy-saving measures which have resulted in a 'slight decrease' in oil consumption in the industrialised countries, but noted that 'worldwide demand is on the rise'. The conference thus recommended that all energy sources, with the exception of nuclear, be developed to avoid dependence on one particular source.

To foster such development, the conference participants proposed an international fund for energy projects,

to be financed primarily with funds freed by disarmaments, and reinforced by contributions from multilateral and bilateral aid agencies such as the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Meeting in Tunis in February, the Arab League Economic and Social Council drew up a detailed agreement for the promotion of inter-Arab trade and co-operation in development between the various Arab countries. However, Arab economic

Debate also centred on the transnational companies which were reproached for their tendency to 'monopolise energy technology'. Conference participants called for a change in their policies to favour development of new energy sources. The industrialised countries were also called on to furnish energy technology and research in the developing countries.

The 'Energy 2000' recommendations were also addressed to the developing countries, which were advised to learn from the energy errors of the industrialised countries to promote their own self-sufficiency and to design energy policies bearing in mind social, cultural, economic and ecological realities.

The conference called on oil-producing nations to look ahead to future needs of developing countries by 'conserving and stocking the largest possible quantity of their reserves', and by paying special attention to exploiting new energy sources so as to conserve agricultural land.

The final report of the conference included a plan of action and an 'energy chart' for more effective energy utilisation. These documents will be the 'Energy 2000' contribution to the UN Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources set for next August.

experts involved in such plans see their principal battle as convincing political leaders in the Arab world of the need to pursue economic complementarity as a goal of the highest priority for the future, not only of the region in a general sense, but also of individual Arab states, including those which enjoy vast oil revenues.

The Tunis agreement concentrates on trade: breaking down tariff barriers between Arab states, protecting Arab goods from outside competition, and developing industry on a complementary basis. The agreement becomes effective three months after ratification by at least five Arab states. No party can withdraw from the agreement within three years of its joining.

Commenting on the agreement in an interview published on 12th March in the Beirut newspaper *As-Safir*, the Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, Dr Abd Al-Hasan Zalzal, stressed that there was much more to it than simply the advocacy of a free trade zone in the Arab world. The most important aspect, he says, is that the agreement promotes linkage between the productive sector and the trade and services sectors.

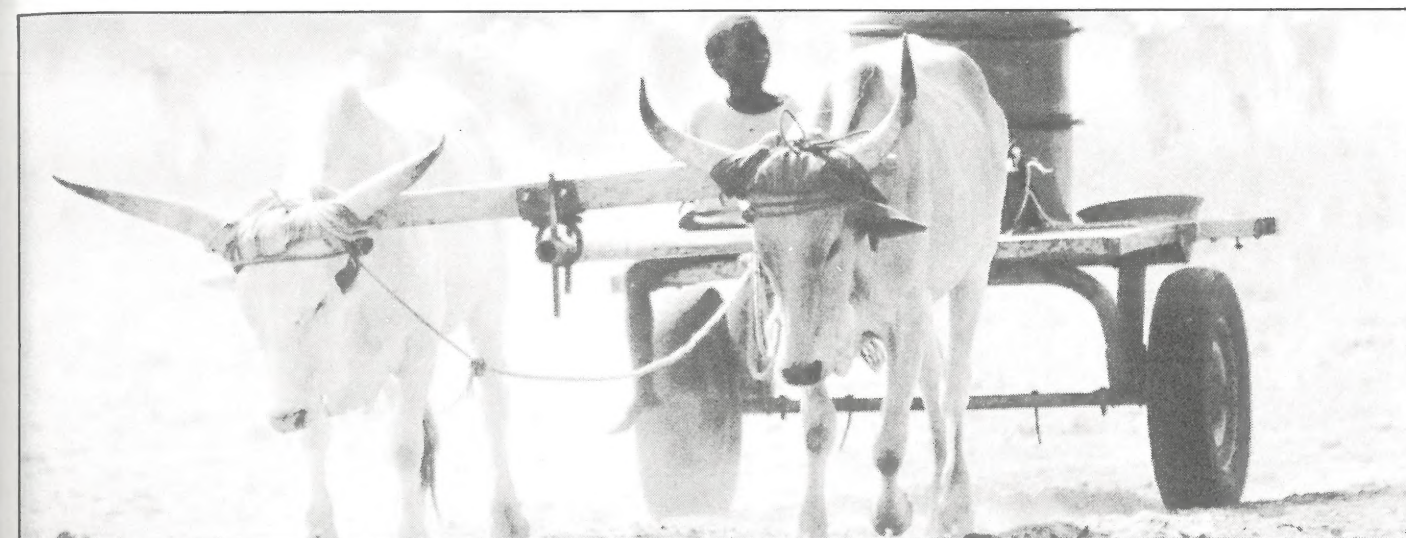
One of the major problems faced by the Arab world is that trade between states is negligible, and even on the decline. In order to increase inter-Arab trade, Dr Zalzal says, a productive base must be built to create the kind of surplus in individual Arab countries which would make trade viable between them.

The Arab League official also stressed the importance, if such agreements are to be effective, of developing the poorer Arab countries in order to increase their potential as a market for Arab goods. However, he said that Arab economists are engaged in a battle with Arab political leaders, and experience periodic crises of self-confidence. He identified the main problem in 'selling' such economic projects as Arab leaders' preoccupation with short-term affairs, and the difficulty of convincing them of the need to take real steps towards guaranteeing the long term prosperity of the region and its states.

The critical importance of the adoption of such a strategy aimed at establishing balanced economic development in the Arab homeland was underlined in a recent report by Abdel Rahim Omran published by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), which details population, social and economic characteristics, fertility and health in the region, and analyses some of the problems these pose.

The main points to emerge from Professor Omran's book are:

— Population density varies widely in the Arab world, from the Nile Delta in Egypt, where it is 1,000 or more per square kilometre, to areas that are almost uninhabited, such as vast tracts of the Sahara.



The urgent need for development remains in the Third World.

— With a high rate of population increase in the region (three per cent per year), Arabs tend to be young. 45 per cent of the world's 155 million Arabs are under 15. This is reflected in a comparatively low rate of economic activity.

— Arab males outnumber women, though this could be due to either inaccurate reporting or higher female death rate.

— The Arab world generally has a low literacy rate, a heritage of its colonial past. Female literacy is even lower. Overall, the highest literacy rates are found in Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and Kuwait. At the other end of the scale are Somalia and Saudi Arabia.

— Gross national products also vary greatly. While Kuwait's per capita gross national product is over 12,000 dollars

a year, the figure in Somalia and the two Yemens is less than 100 dollars.

— Women account for eight per cent of the workforce on average in the Arab world, though in Somalia this rises to 35 per cent.

— Life expectancy is shorter in the Arab region than in the rest of the world, though different Arab countries enjoy widely differing standards of health care. Countries such as Somalia and Mauritania, for example, face bigger problems in this field than do some of the richer Gulf countries.

— 'Over population' is not a problem in the oil-producing Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya and the United Arab Emirates. In fact they would like to see higher population growth

rate attended by increased services in the health education and training sectors.

Much of UNFPA financing in the Arab world is directed to maternal and child health programmes. According to population needs, UNFPA assistance ranges from birth control and family planning services to health and nutrition training.

That such help is needed is clear from the data in Professor Omran's book. He concludes that rapid population growth is burdening the existing health systems, straining educational facilities, and impeding development in Arab countries with limited resources. The pressure is greatest in the poorer Arab countries, and is exacerbated by inflation, changing consumption patterns and rising social aspirations.

Algeria calls for reform of world economic order

UNLESS DEVELOPING countries are given a meaningful role in decision making at international financial institutions, the world will not be able to meet the economic challenges of our time, argues Mr Muhammad Bedjaoui, Algerian Ambassador to the United Nations. 'Fairness, equity and justice in international economic relations' are impossible, Bedjaoui said in an 11th March interview with the international news agency Inter Press Service, if developing countries are confined to playing a 'marginal role' on issues which fundamentally affect their destinies. The Algerian diplomat, who is also Chairman of the Group 77 [developing countries] at the UN, stressed the Third World's potential weight in international economic relations and dealings.

He looked to next May's Group 77 summit in Caracas as a step towards realising this potential, and hoped that the high level conference would give

political impetus to economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC). The ambassador cautioned, however, that the success of the Caracas conference 'depends primarily on the extent to which the technical groups will be able to come out with concrete and action-orientated recommendations' within a specific period. He hoped the ad hoc committees would follow up all the recommendations in order to foster deeper North-South co-operation.

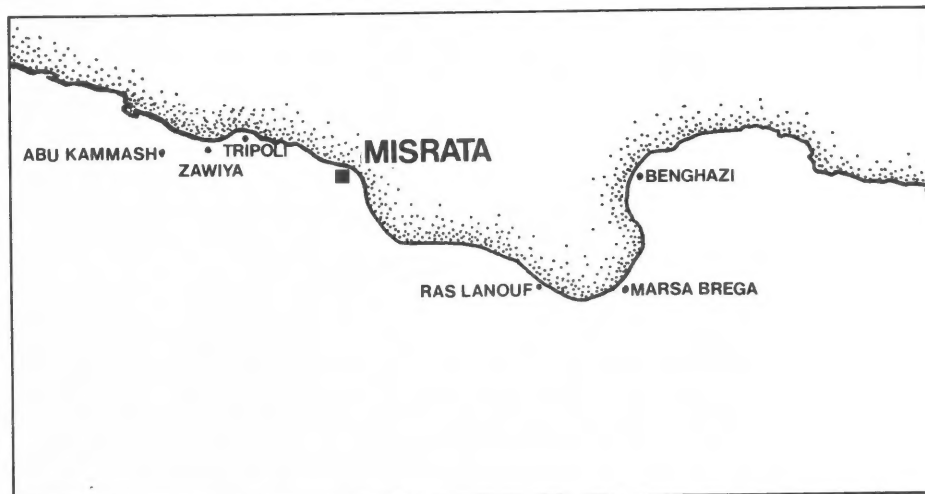
Commenting on the impasse in the global negotiations for launching a new international economic order, Ambassador Bedjaoui, the author of an international best seller *Towards a New International Economic Order*, blamed the Western nations for the stalemate. The gap, he said, could not be bridged, 'until our partners from the developed countries are convinced that they will gain advantages' and would also equally benefit from the new round of negotiations.

He believed the global negotiations, by laying the foundations of a 'genuine restructuring of international economic relations through the establishment of a new international economic

order', would help revive the world economy, which analysts say is suffering its worst slump since the Second World War. But the North's reluctance to translate its avowed support for global negotiations into action made the prospects of a conference this year to launch a new international economic order dim.

The global negotiations have come up against a new hurdle, observers in America feel, in the Reagan administration's 'economic recovery' programme. This proposes a 26 per cent cut in American foreign economic aid, and towards bilateral arrangements at the expense of multilateral aid.

Ambassador Bedjaoui expressed the hope that developing countries would expand North-South co-operation, adding that fundamentally such co-operation must be 'a basic component of the restructuring of international economic relations with the global objective of the establishment of the new international economic order'. To attain this objective, he said, economic co-operation among developing countries should embrace all fields of development with a coherent and an integrated approach based on mutual benefits and reciprocal advantages.



Industrial cities of the Libyan Jamahiriya

Misrata: A new era for an ancient trading centre

A TRAVELLER'S guide to Libya published in 1964 dismissed the town of Misrata, on the coast about 150 kilometres east of Tripoli, as 'an ancient trading centre which has become well known for its woollen carpet industry'. Although it was then, as it still is, Libya's third largest city after Tripoli and Benghazi, this description reflects the torpor into which Misrata had sunk prior to 1969, when the Al Fateh Revolution brought to power energetic young leaders dedicated to the accelerated development of their formerly impoverished country. As a key part of the ambitious development programme launched since the Revolution, a number of the Jamahiriya's coastal towns have been assigned a major role in the country's drive towards industrialisation. Side by side with the new industrial plants that have been established have gone comprehensive programmes of urban redevelopment. Misrata is one such town, and is today undergoing a transformation that will make it unrecognisable as the sleepy backwater of the 1964 tourist guide.

At the heart of the Misrata developments lies a fully integrated iron and steel works, designed by India's M N Dastur for construction in three phases. 1985 should see the completion of the \$3,300 million first stage, which provides for an annual output of 1.2 million tonnes of steel. The second stage, for completion in 1991 will increase capacity to 5 million tonnes per annum will the final phase entails expansion to an annual capacity of 7 million tonnes by the year 2005.

The Misrata steel works is one of the centre-pieces of the Jamahiriya's new \$6.5 billion development plan for the years 1981-85, which was inaugurated in January this year. The first half of this year has seen a spate of major contracts for the projects and related utilities, with

AS PART of the Libyan Jamahiriya's development programme, a number of industrial cities are now emerging. In the first of a series of articles examining these new cities, Dr Alan George reviews the plans for Misrata, 150 kilometres east of Tripoli.

a combined value of about \$4 billion. The first contract came in January when Japan's Kobe Steel was awarded an \$801.8 million order for a bar and wire rod mill, and a shape rolling mill. At the same time it was announced that a joint venture between Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Mexico's Hojalata & Lamina had won a \$430 million contract for a direct reduction plant with an annual capacity of 550,000 tonnes. This will convert iron ore into steel pellets, and the latter will then be mixed with scrap metal and fed into one of the steel production plants. These will in turn supply the rolling mills.

Contracts worth a staggering \$2.3 billion were signed in February. A consortium of West Germany's Korf Engineering and Austria's Voest-Alpine was awarded a \$539.3 million contract for a 670,000 tonnes per annum capacity steel production plant, which will specialise in the production of steem blooms and billets and will have three electric arc furnaces, each with a 90 tonnes capacity for each production shift. A \$674.2 million contract for a second steel production plant, to produce 650,000 tonnes of steel slabs annually, was won by West Germany's Friedrich Krupp.

Two consortia, both led by Voest-Alpine, were each awarded a contract for a steel rolling mill. A \$524.2 million hot rolling mill will have an annual capacity of 580,000 tonnes, while a \$498 million cold rolling mill will have a capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum.

The most recent contract for the iron and steel production plant at Misrata came in April when a consortium of West German and Austrian firms won a \$339 million contract to supply a 1.1 million tonnes per annum capacity sponge iron plant, with two smelters of 550,000 tonnes each. Completion is scheduled for 1984.

As well as orders for the iron and steel production plant itself, there have been major contracts for ancillary plant and utilities. In April it was announced that an Italian consortium led by Fiat Engineering and Techint Compagnia Tecnica Internazionale has been awarded three contracts, totalling \$300 million, for a water purification plant, repair workshops and electricity transformer stations. In February Japan's Kobe Steel won a \$49 million contract for a power and desalination plant for the steel works, entailing the supply of a power station with three 83.5 MW steam turbines and a 220 kV substation and switching station. The desalination plant will have three units, each with a daily capacity of 10,500 million cubic feet of water. The contract, for completion in 1982, also involves the installation of sea water circulation and cooling water systems. In March it was reported that a Japanese joint venture between C Itoh & Company and Nakanogumi Company has won a \$53.3 million contract for non-production facilities at the steel works, to include central administrative offices and dining rooms.

During the steel plant's first phase, iron ore will be imported through the project's own port, the \$282 million contract for which was won last November by Turkey's Sezai Turkes Feyzi Akkaya. The work includes construction of a 2,500 metre main breakwater, a 384 metre bulk berth, a small craft harbour and the intake for the steel complex's desalination plant. On land, the contract provides for about 3,600 square metres of buildings, roads, drainage, sewerage, power, lighting and telephone installations, and all port office equipment. Sezai Turkes will also supply the raw materials handling system, which includes a 2,000 tonnes per hour capacity bulk unloader, and port and pellet stockyard conveyors. The Turkish firm is to run the port for 18 months after completion, which is due about the end of 1983.

During the second stage of the steel works' operation, the Jamahiriya will switch to its own extensive reserves of iron ore, located in the Wadi Shatti area near Sebha, deep in the Sahara. A 990 kilometres railway, which has been designed by Yugoslavia's Projekt-Inzenjering, is planned to carry the ore north to Misrata.



Technology is a central feature of the Jamahiriya's development projects.

While the steel works will form the backbone of Misrata's industrial economy, an important role is also envisaged for petrochemicals. Another major project in the current five-year plan is a \$770 million oil refinery for the town, with a daily capacity of 220,000 barrels. In March it was announced that Italy's Foster Wheeler Italiana has won a \$20 million contract for process design, and the selection and supervision of contractors for the refinery, whose construction should take four years.

A question mark some observers have placed against the new industries planned for Misrata concerns the high level of technical and managerial expertise required for their successful operation. Certainly a shortage of skilled manpower, such as characterises all Third World countries, is a problem in the Jamahiriya, and is openly acknowledged by the country's planners. Addressing the General People's Congress in January, Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa pointed to lack of skilled labour as the single greatest obstacle encountered in the execution of the 1976-80 Transformation Plan, and it was decided that a new emphasis should be given in the 1981-85 plan to technical training. It is a measure of the Jamahiriya's determination to act on this decision that many of the contracts for the Misrata steel plant have provided for the training of Libyan personnel. Reliance on foreign expertise should thus be only limited and temporary.

The rapid industrialisation of Misrata and the attendant urban developments will not be of benefit only to the town itself. It has been a long-standing aim of Libya's planners to check, and if possible reverse, the major population movement to the two main cities of Tripoli and Benghazi that has been under way ever since the advent of oil. The provision of job opportunities, housing, and a comprehensive range of welfare and social facilities in such provincial towns as Misrata should do much to engineer a better distribution of the Jamahiriya's population.

Emphasis on neighbourhood developments

THE STEEL works at Misrata lie at the heart of a comprehensive urban development scheme for the town as a whole, which has been under way for some years but has gathered momentum in recent months with the beginning of work on the steel complex. In March it was reported that Yugoslavia's Makedonija Invest Delovno has won a \$180 million turnkey contract for the construction of about 170 buildings in the city. The company will design and build 80 apartment blocks, about 30 schools, sports centres, shops, roads and other infrastructure, with work due for completion in 30 months. In April it was announced that South Korea's Samsung Construction Company has won a \$32 million contract for a six-storey hotel for completion in two years. With a floor area of 18,000 square metres, the hotel will include a 230-seat theatre, a two-storey studio building and housing for staff. In January the Jamahiriya News Agency, JANA, reported that a contract had been signed for the construction of a social centre, to include study and lecture halls, a library, gymnasium and sports ground.

Health facilities have also been given high priority. A Yugoslav company recently completed a 200-bed hospital in the city, and the Jamahiriya's Health Secretariat has commissioned a maternity and children's hospital with between 100 and 200 beds. In late 1977 a out-patients' clinic was opened with a medical staff of about 130 and ultra-modern X-ray equipment.

Misrata's water and electricity supplies, and its transport links with the rest of Libya and with the outside world have also been upgraded, or will shortly be enhanced. The town's new Qasr Ahmad port, opened in June

1978, has already been expanded, while a Yugoslavian company has completed a large fishing port as part of the Jamahiriya's national programme to exploit her marine resources. Construction tenders are expected to be issued shortly for a 210 kilometre single track, standard gauge railway line to link the town with Tripoli. In early 1979 it was reported that the Indian Kamani Engineering Corporation had been contracted to install a 100 kilometre 220 kV transmission line from Homs, on the coast to the west of Misrata. This line is designed to supply the town, rather than the steel works, which will have its own power generation facilities. In January this year it was announced that Yugoslavia's Hidrogradnja Gradjevinsko had won a \$15.5 million contract to install a complete new water supply system for the town. Water will be pumped from 20 wells to two 2,000 cubic metre reservoirs, and thence into the distribution system.

But contracts have not yet been awarded for the largest single urban development planned for Misrata — a residential complex for steel workers to be sited some five kilometres north west of the steel works. Designed by West Germany's Weidleplan Consulting, the complex is to be built in two stages. The first, comprising four neighbourhoods housing 20,000 people, is scheduled for completion by the end of 1985, coinciding with the first phase of construction of the steel plant. A further four neighbourhoods, housing another 20,000 people, will be built in the second phase. An important feature of the housing project, tenders for the first stage of which are expected to be issued shortly, is the emphasis the designers have given to traditional Libyan and Islamic architectural styles.

New tanker brings Libyan fleet to 23 ships

THE ARRIVAL of the Swedish-built oil tanker *Qortabiyah* at the port of Sidra on 24th April brings the Jamahiriya's total merchant fleet to 23 vessels, of which 13 are oil tankers, with eight cargo ships and two passenger liners. The *Qortabiyah*, with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels of oil, is reputed to be the largest oil tanker in Africa, and brings the Jamahiriya's total maritime cargo capacity to 1.05 million tonnes. The new vessel is 285 metres in length and has a maximum width of 44.4 metres, and its 27,300 horsepower engines give it a cruising speed of 16 knots. The ship is the second of three ordered from a Swedish yard.

The Jamahiriya took delivery of the first of the three tankers, the 153,000 tonnes *Hani*, on 23rd March, and the General Organisation for Maritime Transport says the final tanker, the *Al Foweihat*, is expected to be delivered shortly, and will bring Libya's oil tanker capacity to 1.2 million tonnes. The three tankers will make the Jamahiriya the third largest Arab and the biggest African oil carrier.

A contract to manage the three new tankers has been won by Ocean Fleets, part of Britain's Ocean Transport and Trading. The firm will provide about 130 officers and sailors to operate the vessels. Since 1974, Ocean Fleets has managed two other tankers for the General Organisation for Maritime Transport.

The Jamahiriya's new five year plan for 1981-85 calls for the expansion of her merchant fleet to 36 ships, and by the end of the plan period about 60 per cent of all Libya's imports will be carried in Libyan-owned vessels.

New towns will stabilise rural population

IN THE years immediately following the development of Libyan oil exports the two major cities of Tripoli and Benghazi witnessed a heavy influx of rural dwellers, attracted by the wider range of job opportunities and welfare facilities becoming available there. As a consequence it has been a long-standing aim of the Jamahiriya's planners to redress the resultant imbalances in the distribution of the country's population by means of a comprehensive programme of development in Libya's smaller towns and villages.

Their determination was underlined by the recent disclosure that



Libya continues to expand her maritime fleet.

Sotegec of Belgium is to complete design specifications and tender documents for the infrastructure of six new towns by the beginning of October. The new settlements will be located at Suani, Yeferen, Zintan, Birel Goham, Riayna and near Benghazi. Each will cover between 60 and 100 hectares and will have between eight and nine thousand residents. Sotegec is dividing the towns into housing, shopping, school and factory areas, and the plans provide for telephone, sewerage and drainage systems, water and electricity supply networks and roads and street lighting.

The Turkish company Libas was reported by *Middle East Economic Digest* on 10th April to have won four major housing contracts with a combined value of about \$300 million during the first quarter of 1981, the largest being for the construction of 1,000 homes and service buildings, utilities and infrastructure at Zawiya, west of Tripoli. The firm is to build 500 homes and service buildings, with utilities and infrastructure, at Zuwara, near Zawiya, and 489 homes with service buildings, dispensaries and doctors' accommodation in nine villages near Tripoli. The fourth contract is for the construction of 250 homes near Ubari for workers at the Maknousa agricultural scheme, deep in the Sahara near Sebha. The client for all four contracts is the Jamahiriya's Housing Secretariat.

In April it was reported that prequalification has been invited for building a commercial and industrial port at Zuwara, about 150 kilometres west of Tripoli. The port will have about eight berths and will be built in two stages, the first for completion by the end of 1983 and the second one year later. The Zuwara port will serve local industries, including a 100,000 tonne per annum capacity aluminium smelter to be built under the current five year plan. Consultant for the port is the UK's Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners.

Sahara power plant contract for West Germany

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S electric power generating capacity increased from 879 MW in 1975 to 1,950 MW last year, Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa reported to the General People's Congress in January. Under the new five year development plan for 1981-85 this rapid expansion is set to continue at an average rate of 15.1 per cent.

The latest electric power project was reported in April, and entails the installation of a 50 MW power station in the south, about 80 kilometres north east of Sebha. The \$46.4 million contract for the project has been awarded to West Germany's Krupp Mak, a subsidiary of the giant Friedrich Krupp concern. For completion in 14 months, the station will be powered by Krupp Mak's M601 diesel generators. The company has already built six similar stations in the region.

Hotels for Misrata and Tobruk

IN RECENT years the Jamahiriya has seen a sharp rise in business visitors participating in her ambitious development programme, and also in visitors taking part in the series of major international conferences that have been hosted by Libya. This increased flow of travellers, however, has placed a heavy burden on the country's limited number of high quality hotels, prompting a series of important contracts for new tourist accommodation.

Following the announcement in March that Sweden's Skanska Cementgjuteriet had won a contract for a major new hotel in Benghazi comes the disclosure

that the Jamahiriya's Social Security Secretariat has awarded South Korea's Samsung Construction contracts worth \$66 million to build new hotels in the coastal towns of Misrata and Tobruk, for completion in two years. The two hotels, both designed by Italy's Inter Planning, Architecture & Planning, are identical and will each have six storeys and a floor area of 18,000 square metres. Each will include a 230-seat theatre, a two-storey studio building and housing for staff. Although the two hotels are identical, that in Tobruk will cost \$34 million, compared with the \$32 million cost of the Misrata development.

Benghazi port scheme on target

TO DEAL with the increasing volumes of goods that are certain to pass through the Jamahiriya's ports as the country's economy continues its rapid growth, the new five year plan calls for an increase in the annual capacity of Libya's ports from 7 million to 16 million tonnes, and recent reports suggest that this target will be reached.

The current programme to expand Benghazi port is making good progress, the Jamahiriya New Agency JANA announced on 27th March. Breakwater No 1 is 70 per cent completed, the second breakwater is half finished and work has begun on the extension of the northern breakwater. Excavation and infill work is also well on schedule. About two-thirds of the 850,000 square metre excavations have been completed, while work on the infilling of 1,750,000 square metres is 60 per cent completed.

The final studies for the Karsa fishing port, near the north eastern town of Derna, will be completed soon, JANA reported on 9th March, adding that tenders for construction will be put out during the second half of this year.

Development aid for India under review

HIGHLIGHTING THE Jamahiriya's determination to use her enormous oil revenues to encourage the development of other Third World countries, it was reported in March that a high level Libyan team will shortly be visiting New Delhi to identify possible areas for Libyan investment in India. This was one of the outcomes of a recent visit to Tripoli by an Indian delegation headed by Industry Minister Charanjit Chanana.

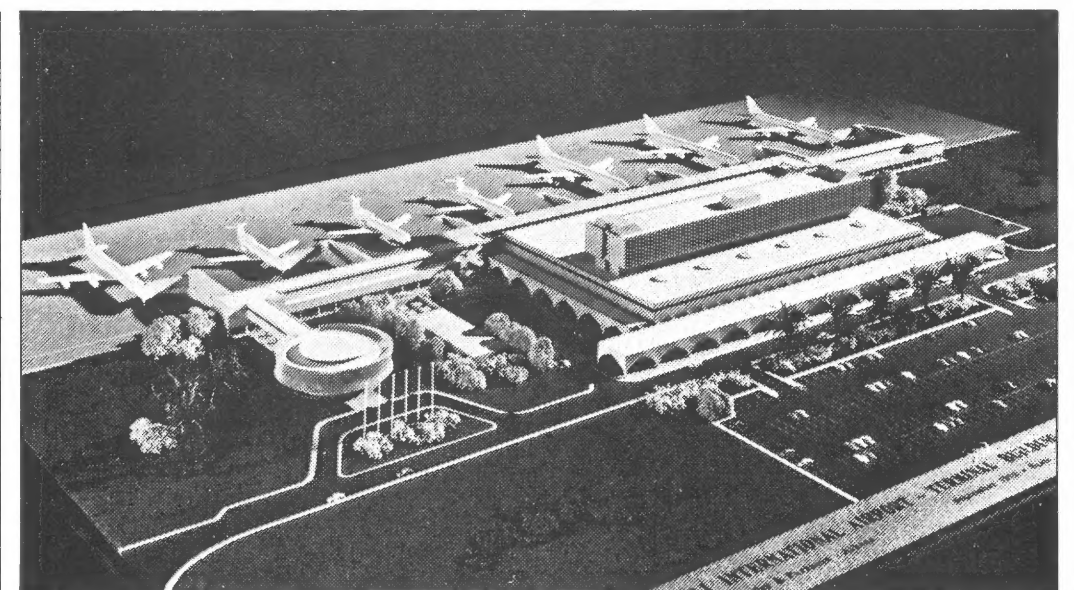
Mr Chanana said his delegation had submitted a list of 14 projects which might benefit from Libyan funding, including schemes for fertilisers, drugs and pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, cement and hotels. He added that there would be increased participation by Indian companies in the Jamahiriya's development programme, in the fields of heavy and light industry, power generation, transport, telecommunications, management consultancy, agriculture, health and housing.

As a result of discussions with the visiting Indian team, Libya has reportedly agreed in principle to supply crude oil to India, and the Asian state has signed a protocol with the Jamahiriya for the recruitment of Indian doctors. Similar protocols covering engineers and skilled and semi-skilled industrial workers will reportedly be signed shortly.

According to figures released in March by the Indian trade ministry, Indian firms have won more work in the Jamahiriya than in any other Arab country. Of the \$5 billion worth of contracts on which Indian companies are currently working in the Arab homeland, Libya accounts for \$1.8 billion. In second place lies Iraq, with \$1.2 billion, followed by Kuwait with \$600 million.

Benghazi exchange will boost telephone services

SWEDEN'S L M Ericsson is to begin installing the Benghazi international telephone exchange this month, under a contract won in 1978. Work will take about a year and includes laying a cable to connect with the existing local exchange. Under the same contract, Ericsson undertook to install the Tripoli international exchange, which was completed in mid-1980. It is reported that the company recently signed a contract for a telephone cable network in Derna, about 350



Tripoli International Airport: Home base for Libyan Arab Airlines.

kilometres east of Benghazi, while the firm has another contract, valued at \$23.3 million for the laying of telephone lines in Beida, about 130 kilometres east of Benghazi.

In another development in the telecommunications sector, Norway's Elektrist Bureau recently won a \$1 million contract from the National Oil company to install a telecommunications system for the Marsa Brega to Misrata gas pipeline. The firm is already working on a \$7.9 million contract won last year for a telecommunications system for an oil pipeline in the west of the Jamahiriya.

Oil pipeline equipment was also the subject of a \$107,950 order placed by the Azzawiya Refinery Company (ARC) with Pullen Pumps of the UK, reported in March. The contract is for the supply of pipeline pumps for the heating, and hot and chilled water systems at ARC's oil refinery west of Tripoli.

New bakeries will cost \$40 million

ONE OF the Jamahiriya's major strategic aims is the attainment of self-sufficiency in foodstuffs by the turn of the century. Libya remains particularly dependent on imports of manufactured food, which currently meet about 73 per cent of domestic needs. This proportion is expected to fall to 65 per cent by the middle of the decade as the result of the food processing industries to be set up under the 1981-85 development plan.

The commitment to local processing of home-grown foods was underlined in April by the announcement that the Light Industry Secretariat has placed a \$40 million order for three

ultra-modern, fully automated bakeries with Italy's Techint Compagnia Tecnica Internazionale. Two 32-tonnes per day capacity bakeries will be installed in Tripoli and Benghazi, and another of 16 tonnes per day capacity in Sebha. All three should enter operation by September of next year. Under the terms of the contract, which is said to be the first of its type awarded by the Jamahiriya, the Italian firm will provide training for Libyan personnel to operate the new plants, reflecting the emphasis on the acquisition of technical skills called for under the new five year plan.

Trade ties forged with Nicaragua

REPORTING DETAILS of agreements reached during recent visits to Tripoli by high ranking members of Nicaragua's ruling Sandinista Front, Managua radio said on 9th April that the Jamahiriya had undertaken to guarantee the supply of all the central American state's oil needs. In addition, a joint agricultural development company is to be set up in the Nicaraguan capital, with 49 per cent Libyan capital participation, not later than 30th June and would be engaged in agricultural schemes, processing and marketing. A four-year agreement provides for cultural and scientific co-operation, while a two-year, automatically renewable, agreement covering trade and economic co-operation, provides for the exchange of each country's products and co-operation in industrial development, tourism and other areas. Libya has also undertaken to provide a balance of payments support credit to the Nicaraguan Central Bank, the radio said.

LAA order new aircraft

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S national carrier, Libyan Arab Airlines, has placed a \$41.6 million order for eight turboprop F27 Mark 600 Friendship aircraft with the Dutch firm Fokker-VFW, it was disclosed in April. The 44-seat planes will be delivered in 1982 and 1983 and will be used mainly on LAA's domestic services, which will be extended to take in new destinations, including Brak, Murzuk, Ubari, Derna and Beida. They will also be used for charter flights to the Jamahiriya's numerous development projects.

The new aircraft will reportedly replace the ten F27s operated by LAA since 1972, which will be chartered out to oil companies. Their need for aircraft has reportedly increased recently because of an upsurge in exploration for oil, and the award of new concessions in remote parts of Libya.

In March LAA inaugurated a new twice-weekly return service from Benghazi and the north east coastal town of Tobruk.

Boost to trade with Syria

UNDERLINING THE complementary nature of the Libyan and Syrian economies, which provides a firm economic basis for the planned merger of the two countries, a trade delegation from the Jamahiriya on 1st March signed contracts in Damascus valued at more than \$40 million for Syrian goods. The main items were textiles, china, glassware, household utensils, clothes and shoes. Syrian Industry Minister Hussain al Qadi said discussions were continuing on further contracts.

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Jamahiriya review

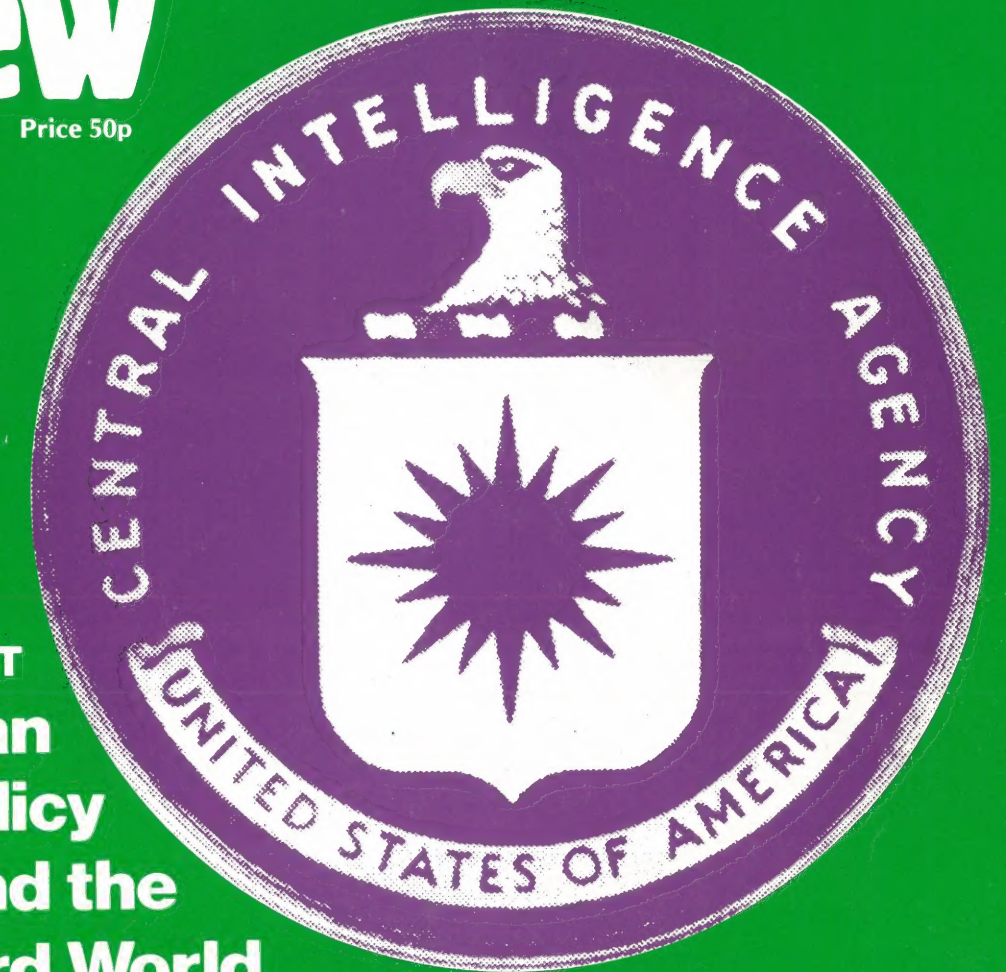
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